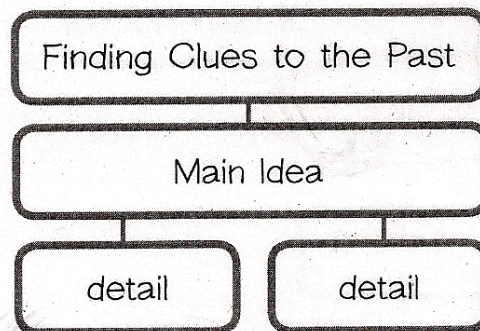


## CHAPTER 1 | LESSON 3 How Archaeologists Study the Past

**Reading Skill and Strategy****Reading Skill: Finding Main Ideas**

This skill helps you identify the most important point of a passage and the details that support it. After you read the section called “Finding Clues to the Past,” record the most important point of the section in the “Main idea” box. Then write down at least two details that support this point. You will also find the main ideas and supporting details of the other two sections of the lesson. Keep in mind that a main idea often comes at the beginning or end of a paragraph.

**READING STRATEGY: QUESTIONS**

Do the following before you read the lesson. Read the paragraphs below. Circle the main idea of each paragraph.

Archaeologists dig up evidence that helps them find out about people who lived long ago. This evidence can include bones and objects that the people made themselves. These objects provide clues about when and how the people lived.

The objects also raise many new questions. Archaeologists often work with other scientists to help them answer these questions. Some scientists help by calculating the age of the bones. Others help archaeologists understand the people's culture, or way of life.

By working together, archaeologists and other scientists can figure out how early people used tools. They can also draw conclusions about when early people developed language and farming. This information has helped the scientists understand how humans have developed over time.